

We Salute Our DOC Employees in May

"Correctional Employees Week"

May 5-9

Official Newsletter
of the Kentucky Department
of Corrections



LaDonna Thompson
Commissioner

INSIDE CORRECTIONS

Vol. 1, Issue 5 - May 2008

DOC Top Executive Staff in Place

By Lisa Lamb
Director
of Communications

With the recent naming of Kimberly Potter-Blair as Deputy Commissioner for Support Services, the top Executive Staff for the Department of Corrections is now in place.

Potter-Blair joins Rodney Ballard and Al Parke as deputy commissioners serving under the first female to ever head the agency, LaDonna Thompson.

Thompson's selection in late January by Gov. Steve Beshear was not only historic in that regard but



Corrections Commissioner LaDonna Thompson and her top executive staff have nearly 100 years of combined experience, all in the field of Corrections. Left to right: Commissioner Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions Al Parke, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services Kimberly Potter-Blair, and Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Rodney Ballard.

also due to the fact she is a veteran of this agency, and has spent her entire career in Kentucky corrections. She started out as a correctional officer when Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

first opened and has served as a CO at other prisons. She worked her way up through the ranks, and spent two and a half years as Deputy Commissioner of the Department under former commissioner,

John D. Rees.

Thompson and her top executive staff have nearly 100 years of combined experience, all in the field of

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On The Inside

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'Unsafe Haven' for Absconders

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Brings Out the Best in Us!

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Central Office get in the Derby spirit

MAC Goes Tobacco-Free

By Brad Adams
Quality Assurance Manager
Marion Adjustment Center

Marion Adjustment Center proudly announced on Jan. 15, 2008, the facility became a tobacco-free prison. Marion Adjustment Center followed suit on its tobacco-free initiative behind several Kentucky state facilities and Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) fa-

cilities. CCA, based in Nashville, Tenn., owns and operates Marion Adjustment Center, along with two other Kentucky prisons, Lee Adjustment Center and Otter Creek Correctional Center.

MAC's tobacco-free initiative mirrors that of Kentucky's other tobacco-free prisons: the use of tobacco on facility grounds is prohibited by inmates,

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Absconders Beware: Blalock, AKA 'She Geek' on the Prowl

By **Todd G. Woodward**
Accreditation Manager

It's a sleepless night and no one is stirring in the house but you. You grab a snack and head to the keyboard to explore the cyber world that eagerly awaits.

From the comfort and security of your own easy chair you visit the vast expanses of planet earth and all that it has to offer. You even visit friends that you will never have an opportunity to meet in person. Thus is the beauty of the cyber age. The only draw back is that as you explore the realms of virtual reality, they explore you.

One Kentucky Probation and Parole Officer knows this well and has applied this in a new and impressive way. Shannon Blalock, affectionately known to co-workers as "She Geek," is using the all encompassing virtual culture to track down Kentucky fugitives.

Blalock created a fugitives page on MySpace, a highly



Shannon Blalock

popular social networking site, about three months ago and has been posting pictures of fugitives from far western Kentucky ever since.

While some computer-weary onlookers may question her methods, at least one Kentucky parolee has no doubt that a contact on the world-wide-web can lead to big trouble.

Dorothy Bennett absconded parole in 2003 and was living in rural Tennessee while her picture debuted on the fugitives page. In December, an anonymous tipster recognized Bennett from

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Entering a New Realm

In an effort to bring fugitive information to where people are most likely to access it, the Kentucky Department of Corrections/Division of Probation and Parole/District 1 (with special assistance from Officer Shannon Blalock) launched the "Kentucky Probation & Parole Fugitives" MySpace Site on October 1, 2007.

This site is a new and exciting way to "get the job done" in our ever-changing world of technology.

The site, which can be accessed at www.myspace.com/ky_pandp_fugitives, not only contains the photographs and conviction information of Probation & Parole Fugitives, it also contains the function of Kentucky Probation & Parole, frequently asked questions, a spotlight for a featured fugitive, blog stories on fugitive apprehension,



From The Field



By **Renee Maness**
P&P District 1
Supervisor

and links to various sites.

Users who access the site offer information about the fugitives on the site in a variety of ways. Informants have sent messages with pertinent information on the site, have called the contact number listed on the site, and have contacted Probation & Parole Officers in person with information.

Fugitives have been apprehended when an informant recognized them on the site as someone they knew in the community. Others have been apprehended based on the information supplied in

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Commissioner's Corner



Commissioner
LaDonna Thompson

The budget shortfall our state is dealing with has impacted all Kentucky agencies, and our Department is not immune.

The Department of Corrections was spared the initial 3 percent cut at the end of '08 when other state agencies endured this cut. Governor Beshear made that decision due to

the operational requirements of our agency and the growing prison population.

The Department was again spared an across-the-board 12% cut for 2009 that was for all state agencies. Instead, for 2009 and 2010, our Department was given the '08 budget appropriation, legislation was passed that will reduce the prison population, and that appropriation was then reduced by \$8 million.

The reduction is based on a calculation that determined the corresponding reduction in resources anticipated from the declining population. In other words, our budget was cut

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Executive

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Corrections, and each has received numerous awards and accolades during their careers.

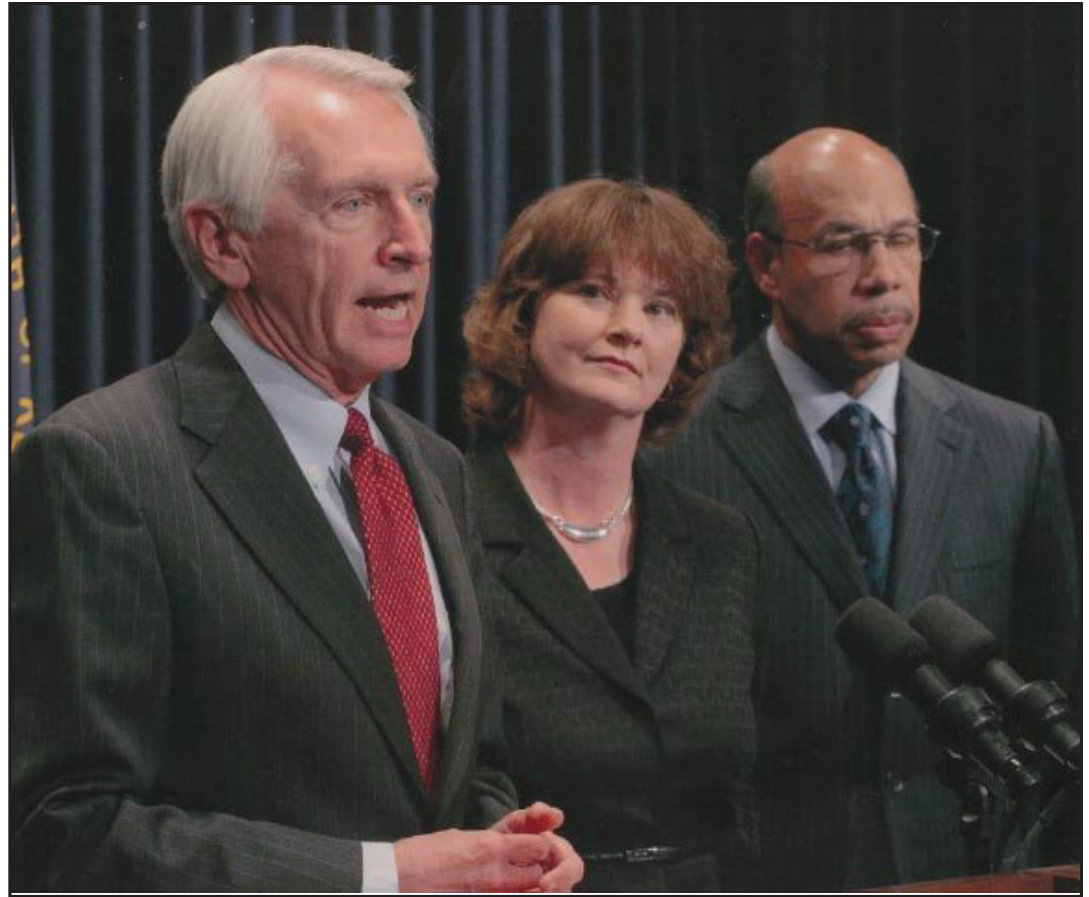
That experience and achievement level will be vital as the Department moves ahead through a critical period with changes and new policies brought forth as a result of budgetary constraints.

"My top level managers are all veterans of Corrections," said Thompson. "I am also proud to say that holds true for my mid-level managers as well. Several individuals in both groups are well known and respected throughout this state.

"We are fortunate to have put together this team of professionals with extensive institutional and field experience. They will be invaluable to the Department as we go forward with several new initiatives targeted to reduce the growing prison population."

Al Parke returns to the Kentucky DOC where he began his Corrections career in 1975. In his new role of Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions, Parke is in charge of all prison operations in the state.

Prior to coming back to Kentucky, he served as Southern Regional Director for the Indiana Department of Correction where he supervised and monitored 17



Making History

At the press conference announcing her appointment, Gov. Steve Beshear, left, said Kentucky Department of Corrections Commissioner LaDonna Thompson had dedicated her career to the Department. He said her training and experience had prepared her well for the job and given her a keen understanding of the issues and needs facing the Department. Justice & Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown, right, also expressed his support of Thompson.

facilities.

Rodney Ballard is the Deputy Commissioner of the Department's Community Services Division which encompasses Probation & Parole and Local Facilities.

Ballard's work experience includes a 10-year stint as Chief Deputy at the Kenton County Detention Center. He also had a decorated 17-year career with the Kentucky State Police, including serving on the agency's

Special Response Team and Executive Security Detail.

The newest member to the team, Potter-Blair, brings both institution and field experience to the job. As Deputy Commissioner for Support Services, she will be responsible for administrative services, corrections training, budget management, correctional industries, offender information and information technology.

Potter-Blair began her

Corrections career at Blackburn Correctional Complex in 1998. She was promoted to a caseworker at the prison before transferring to the Division of Probation & Parole in District 9.

After supervising a caseload of offenders for approximately four years, Potter-Blair was then promoted to Assistant District Supervisor of the District in 2003, and then to District Supervisor of District 9 in 2005.



DOC Employees celebrate Correctional Employees Week !

*Photos Courtesy of LLCC
Procedures Officer Charlene Hoke*

At DOC institutions and Probation & Parole offices across the state, Correctional Employees Week is celebrated with a host of activities like the ones pictured here. This is just a sampling of the special activities that are offered as a way of saying "Thank You" for the incredible job you do all year!

Above: Lt. Hezzie Turner and KCPC Correctional Officer Austin Sasser enjoy a game of Hillbilly Horseshoes. Below: Luther Luckett Correctional Complex Warden Tom Dailey, Correctional Officer Marty Smith, UAH Sherry Taylor and UAH Tommy Lipscomb enjoy the food and festivities offered at the prison during Correctional Employees Week. At right, KCI Operations Manager Cheri Kraus, Production Manager Roger Liter and Warden Dailey heat up the grills to prepare food for the employees.





For a Good Cause

Above: Bob Milby, a Classification Treatment Officer at Northpoint Training Center, shared in a special dance during the annual SPAN (Special Persons Advocacy Network) dance to assist individuals with special needs. The event, hosted by the Herrington Lake KCCD Chapter, was held at the Hope Center in Burgin. Below: Several NTC staff and KCCD members posed for a photo. Back Row, left to right: Marolyn Hines, Sharon Caudill, Rita Douglas, and Bob Milby. Front row, left to right, Tim Settles, Corrections Commissioner LaDonna Thompson, Sandy Mitchell, and Linda Ragland.



Above: A second-grade class from LaGrange Elementary recently toured the Oldham County History Center's exhibit, "Serving Life: The Kentucky State Reformatory." The exhibit runs through August 15, 2008. On May 22nd at 6:30 there will be a discussion forum at the History Center featuring KSR Warden Larry Chandler, former KSR Warden and former Commissioner of Corrections, John D. Rees, and Director of Corrections for Jefferson County and former Commissioner of Corrections, Tom Campbell.

Corner

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by approximately the same amount of money we are expected to be able to "save" or reduce our budget by reducing our prison population.

These population-reducing mechanisms include expanding our current home incarceration program from 90 days to at least 180 days for eligible offenders and increasing the amount of time credits for meritorious, educational and adding time credit for successful program completion such as SAP.

We are currently in the final stages of formulating the policy to implement these changes.

As a result of these

population-reducing measures, a great deal of effort is going to be needed by staff to accomplish this mission. We also realize we will be asking you to do this at a time when we expect a large number of retirements of veteran DOC employees as well. As a result of the budgetary shortfall, many of these vacancies will not be filled.

We will be depending on our next generation of leaders to fill these voids and develop creative alternatives to fill the gaps.

In these coming months you will be asked to follow this adage: "Learn to Do More With Less."

And as cliché as it may sound, it could well become our motto for the foreseeable future.

MAC

From Page 1

staff, visitors and contractors.

During the planning period for the transition to a tobacco-free facility, Warden Arvil Chapman met with his staff in order to make the move as smooth as possible for both staff and inmates. It was decided to offer the Cooper Clayton Smoking Cessation Program to both staff and inmates.

The Cooper Clayton Program is a 12-week program that utilizes nicotine replacement therapy products. Dr. Cooper himself came to Marion Adjustment Center to certify five inmates and five staff as instructors in the program.

The first class offered to inmates began in June 2007. In addition, we continue to offer literature on tips to becoming a non-smoker to both staff and inmates.

Margaret Franchere, LPN and Cooper Clayton Facilitator at MAC said, "I feel we have been successful in our goals to transition to a tobacco-free facility. I am proud to have been part of making our facility a safer and healthier environment for everyone."

To begin the tobacco-free initiative, the MAC inmate commissary began decreasing the number and types of tobacco being sold before stopping all sales of tobacco on December 15, 2007. Beginning in the summer of 2007, the business office began selling nicotine replacement therapy items from Glaxo-Smith Kline to staff and inmates.



Marion Adjustment Center Warden Arvil Chapman proudly stands beside the exterior sign announcing the prison's tobacco-free policy. Tobacco products, including matches and lighters, are prohibited on the grounds.

In addition to these items, the inmate commissary added chewing gum and hard candy to its list of items to sell to the inmates and the food service department began giving celery sticks and carrot sticks to the inmates to curb the cravings for tobacco.

"Smoking is a problem for a lot of people who have become addicted to nicotine from tobacco smoke," said inmate Jan Dunson. "They're hooked like a person who is hooked on serious drugs. They have to have it by any means they can get their hands on it. As for myself, I've come to the conclusion that it (giving up smoking) truly helps me to feel good about myself, and even though I think of having one from time

to time, it doesn't affect me one way or the other."

As Marion Adjustment Center moves forward with many changes to its facility, we will continue to focus on safety, security and providing a healthy and sanitary environment for all of our staff and inmate population.

"This has been an opportunity to provide for a healthier and more sanitary environment for our staff and inmate population," said Warden Chapman. "Our tobacco-free initiative was not mandated by any outside agency and I am extremely proud that our facility had the courage to take on this initiative and make it happen in an ever increasing tobacco-free world."

Kentucky's Other Tobacco-Free Prisons

Kentucky State
Reformatory

May 2006

Otter Creek
Correctional
Center

October 2006

Kentucky
Correctional
Institution
for Women

July 2007

Roederer
Correctional
Complex

July 2007

Blackburn
Correctional
Complex

September 2007

Corrections Professionals Today and in the Future ...

Face Difficult Challenges of Inmate Re-Entry

As I come to the end of my career, allow me to look forward. What an exciting time to be in corrections. There are more than a few of us who have spent a career learning to manage an ever burgeoning prison population.

When I started there were two primary state prisons, the Kentucky State Reformatory and the Kentucky State Penitentiary. Now there are 13 state facilities, three private facilities and five federal facilities.

Kentucky has the somewhat dubious honor of being first in the nation in growth (12%) of its already overburdened prison system.

We learned long ago how to manage the growth of the normal inmate population. Double bunking and overcrowding is no longer a challenge, we know how. We have learned to manage health issues and now know that the



*By Larry Chandler
Warden
Kentucky State Reformatory*

health issues of prison inmates today become the public health issues of society tomorrow when those inmates are released.

We have learned too well to manage mental health issues. There is little doubt that prisons are the surrogate mental health institution of today's society. When budgets are cut in the public mental health arena, we in corrections must get better at managing

those patients who will be diverted to us.

It seems that government and society are finally ready to admit; maybe having 2.3 million people in prison is not working. According to the recently published PEW Report, five states have correctional budgets larger than their educational budget.

Something is inherently wrong with this demographic. Statistics have seemed to indicate for years that education has the most positive and lasting effect on recidivism, yet education is still not mandatory while other programs are. Prison is a tough classroom.

The PEW report also points out the racial disparity of those U.S. citizens we put in prison. But it is not disparity

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Nine inmates at Little Sandy Correctional Complex completed Aramark's 'Inmate to Workmate' program. Pictured front row, far left, Aramark Kentucky Regional District Manager Michael Maltese; front row, far right, Warden Joseph Meeko; and back row, far left, Aramark Regional Manager Randy Focken. Inmates receiving the certification were: Johnny Woodard, Thomas Berryman, James Cloud, Melvin Elliot, Jeffrey McGlothlin, Timothy Copher, Frank Smith, T. Sewell, and Jason Cross.

Little Sandy Holds 'Inmate to Workmate' Graduation

Nine inmates from Little Sandy Correctional Complex (LSCC) recently graduated the second phase in the "Inmate to Workmate" program sponsored by Aramark Foodservice.

Aramark Correctional Services developed this program to better equip ex-offenders with tools necessary to secure employment.

The program was designed to provide inmates with high

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Prison

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or inconsistencies that catch society and politician's attention, it is the bottom line.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the prison population has grown (from approximately 320,000 in 1980 to 1.5 million in 2006). Not surprisingly; the cost to house the nation's prison population has also skyrocketed. The average annual operating cost per state inmate in 2001 was \$22,650, or \$62.05 per day. Among facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, it was \$22,632 per inmate, or \$62.01 per day. Billions of tax dollars spent to lock people away for increasingly longer periods of times.

There will be more than a few who will build careers on managing to get people out of prison. What a challenge for them! They must be content to know that the successes will rarely make the headlines. They must be prepared to contend with demagogues who will try to turn the inevitable failures into systemic flaws.

They must be creative in developing alternative sentencing, vigilant in promoting education for staff and inmate as well, diligent in the constant monitoring and evaluating of release strategies.

There is no doubt in my mind that we must start preparing inmates for release the day they step into our prisons and that public safety truly starts when the inmate is released from prison. That is the pre in prerelease, you have work to do!

For those with their careers ahead of them I offer three prayers:

I will pray for your safety. I pray you find the right balance of security and compassion to allow you to fulfill your important mission.

I pray you will find the strength and stamina to fight for the scarce resources you will need to be successful.

Lastly, I pray you have an opportunity to be a part of an institutional

"There is no doubt in my mind that we must start preparing inmates for release the day they step into our prisons and that public safety truly starts when the inmate is released from prison. That is the 'pre' in pre-release ... "

Larry Chandler

Warden

Kentucky State Reformatory

team as great as the one's I have had the pleasure to work with: Team Bell County who redefines what it means to wear different hats; Team Green River who took over 100 people who knew nothing of prisons and transformed a Peabody sludge pit into a modern Correctional Complex; Team Lockett who manages 1200 inmates in a facility built for 480 without a hitch; and finally "The toughest beat in the state," Team KSR who without question faces the greatest challenges daily.

(Editor's Note: "Prison Wire is a new column that will be a regular feature of Inside Corrections. Guest columnists will be wardens or prison administrators within the Kentucky Correctional system.

For the inaugural column, there was no better choice than longtime warden Larry Chandler who has announced he will retire later this year after more than 25 years of service to the Department. Chandler's departure will leave more than one void in our agency: Not only has he soundly led the state's largest prison for the past five years and two other prisons prior to KSR, Mr. Chandler has been a source of sound information and a mentor to many of us at DOC.)

New

From Page 2

messages to the site and followed up on by officers.

Initially, the site only contained the fugitives from District 1, the Paducah Area. Now, fugitives from the Hopkinsville, Mt. Sterling, and Owensboro have been added and are maintained by their individual districts. We are hoping to have every district in the state involved with this project as soon as possible.

(Editor's Note: "From the Field" is a new column that will be a regular feature of Inside Corrections. Guest columnists will be Probation & Parole District Supervisors, Branch Managers or others in the field of Community Corrections.)

Workmate

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level culinary and food service training and practical work experience. The phased program is made up of vocational training classes, mentoring, coaching, testing, tracking, teaching, certification, and job interview assistance.

The program provides participants with hands-on training and certification. The offender graduates with a nationally recognized certification that will help them gain employment and the local community benefits from an increase in the number of trained workers.

Central Office Offender Information Staff Get in the 'Derby' Spirit



Staff from Central Office Offender Information kicked off derby weekend with a Derby Hat contest. Entire OIS Department also celebrated with a derby breakfast. Pictured above (left to right) Kristen Proctor, Betty Hughes, Julie Bowles, Jackie Hayden, Julie W. Thomas, Amanda Sayle, and Traci Wilson. Below Left: Kristen Proctor shows off her hat. Proctor works in the Jail Management Section and is one of the temps in OIS. She is also known as the "Scanning Queen" because she does most of the scanning the Department. Below right: Julie W. Thomas, OIS Branch Manager and Assistant Amanda Sayle show that even supervisors can have fun!



Prowl

From Page 2

her community and contacted a Kentucky Probation and Parole Officer who immediately began following the lead. On December 24, 2007 Dorothy Bennett was arrested by Tennessee authorities and has since been extradited to Kentucky where she awaits a revocation hearing.

Probation and Parole Director Lelia VanHoose was so struck by Blalock's ingenuity and electronic prowess that on January 1, 2008 she was given special assignment to conduct such cyber investigations and electronic pursuits.

"Shannon Blalock has shown the initiative and drive to excel beyond the set standards. She has taken the tools available to her and through creativity and the ability to think outside of the box brought about a new method of investigation for our Division," said VanHoose.

Blalock's MySpace page has inspired Kentucky Department of Corrections personnel to reach new heights with its own absconder page. Information Technology Manager Craig Thatcher is working on an update to the Kentucky Offender Online Lookup system which will include all offenders who have absconded probation or parole supervision in Kentucky. Soon that site will be able to search for absconders by name or by the last known location. Visit that site at: www.corrections.ky.gov/pp/mostwanted.htm; and the Kentucky Probation and Parole Fugitives page at www.myspace.com/ky_pan_dp_fugitives.

Employee Recognition

Tolley Nominated for Compact Award

Kentucky Department of Corrections' Deputy Compact Administrator for Interstate Compact Angela Tolley has been nominated by another state for the "Spirit of the Compact" award. In making the nomination, the Interstate Compact Commissioner member wrote:

"Angela has more than once bent over to assist this neighboring state in placing our offenders in the best placement for the success of both offender and society's interest. She has personally investigated beyond a simple phone call and stood up to field pressures when needed to assure compliance with rules, yet, she has been firm in denying those plans that are not worthy. In one instance, she worked understandingly with parents in Kentucky who set up three or four placements for their son that did not meet sex offender guidelines.

"Thanks to her continued efforts to work with us and the family to explain and assure the plans they made were the best for both offender and the offender's protection and met with all laws. On other occasions she has personally talked to

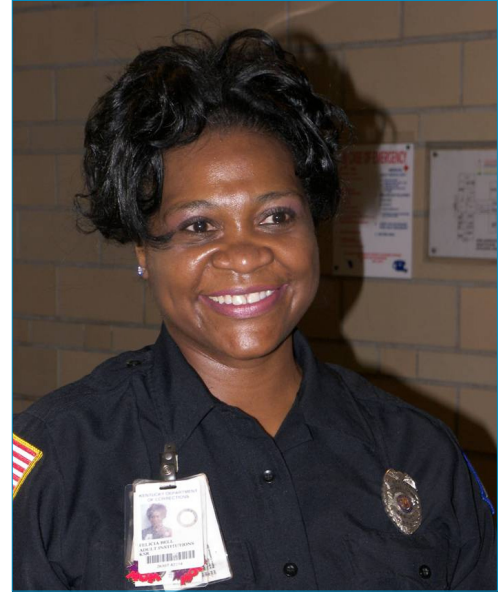


Angela Tolley

offenders, their families, and others discovering and explaining reasons lying beneath the initial appearances that are the heart of the situation. Angela explains where too often the curt reply and negative is the norm. Short cuts necessitated by numbers now often omit what is often known but not communicated.

"For these reasons, I would nominate Angela without hesitation as best exemplifying the "Spirit of the Compact." As a further aside, I am so very happy to see that the "SPIRIT" is not forgotten even in the midst of today's overcrowded, overworked, and sometimes too technical business of the COMPACT."

Tolley is a 25-year employee of the Kentucky DOC.



NAAWS Representative

Felicia Bell, Correctional Officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory, represented the Kentucky Department of Corrections at the recent NAAWS (North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents) Conference in Ohio. She is a 20-year employee of the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

DOC Employees, Inmates Give Big for Charitable Causes

The Department of Corrections participated in the 2008 March of Dimes Fundraising Campaign. The grand total for the Department: \$5,006.53.

Since the Department of Corrections raised only \$15 in 2005, and did not participate at all in 2006 or 2007, the amount of money we have raised in 2008 is especially noteworthy.

This money will go towards educa-

tion and research to help prevent birth defects, premature births and infant mortality.

In another outstanding example of our DOC staff and inmate population giving to very worthy causes, \$8,350 was recently sent for the "Make A Smile" project.

NAAWS in partnership with CPO is going into Louisiana and Mississippi to

build playgrounds for children of those families who were so horribly affected by Hurricane Katrina, especially targeting those areas where correctional families live.

The first project is being done in May with the building of two playgrounds - one in the 9th Ward in New Orleans and the other in Bogalusa, a few miles from Rayburn Correctional Facility.